# THE MUSICAL TIMES

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## THE MUSICAL TIMES. And Singing Class Circular.

With which is incorporated "THE MUSICAL REVIEW." OCTOBER 1st, 1853.

#### CHOIRS AND ORGANS:

THEIR PROPER POSITION IN CHURCHES.

THE following remarks on the Position of Choirs and Organs in Churches were written for and delivered before the members of the Yorkshire Architectural Society, by Mr. WILLIAM SPARK, of Leeds, at a General Meeting held in the Philosophical Hall, Leeds, on Wednesday, May 26th, 1852; the Rev. Dr. Hook, Vicar of Leeds, in the Chair.

I PROPOSE in this paper to consider the various positions occupied by Choirs and Organs in Churches, to discuss the several reasons which may be adduced in favor of or against each locality, existing or possible, and thus to endeavour to establish some general principle, by reference to which the question may be readily adjusted.

A taste for vocal harmony, especially that connected with the services of our Church, is spreading widely in this Country; and (by a happy coincidence) concurrently with a revival of ancient ecclesiastical architecture.

It is generally allowed that a very important part of architecture is the arrangement and fitting of churches for the service of the Church; and I trust I shall, to some extent, be forwarding the settlement of the great question of structural suitability in the edifice for the all-important purpose to which it is dedicated, if I make a few observations on the position of Choirs and Organs.

"So many men, so many minds"—and though I may hold different opinions on this interesting and important subject from many of my hearers, I shall endeavour to make some remarks which or Organs in positions different from those which I should choose.

On the historical part of my subject,—after having waded through the pages of many a dusty folio, and the fat quartos of the Musical Historians, Burney and Hawkins,—I find I can add but little to what has already been given by Mr. Jebb in his admirable work on the Choral Service; and as I shall occasionally have to refer to his the outset to quote them.

In reference to the position of the Choir in churches, Jebb remarks—"The proper place was, and still is, the chancel; where, from the instruc-

Choir, or those assistant in Divine service, ought always to be placed. \* \* \* No Church, however small, ought to be without a regular chancel; its omission was never known till the last century. The gallery, the modern place of the performance, is altogether an innovation of later times, and like that last mentioned, Popish in its origin. That corrupt idolatry of music which prevailed in Italy, induced the admittance of persons into the Choir who were obviously unfit to sit among the clergy, and therefore were placed, like mere instruments, in a loft. The effect, ecclesiastically considered, is bad in the extreme. There is an appearance of theatrical exhibition in this obtrusive elevation of the singers, who frequently attract the gaze of the congregation (perhaps, I should rather say of the audience) below; who, while the musicians are performing, turn their backs upon minister, altar, and everything sacred, absorbed by that which a savage would actually suppose to be the idol of our worship. For many reasons, indeed, I would prefer the ancient and unobtrusive position of the organ on one side; which could be so contrived as not to be glaringly unsymmetrical. any case, a loft for singers should be altogether avoided. It argues great unskilfulness in music to require such a proximity to the organist, and the effect is always better when the voices and organ are separated by some interval. But a much higher and more important reason exists for the location of the Choir below, in the body of the Church or chancel. The ministers of divine worship, such as the lay clerks and boys, or regularly appointed singers, have a sacred office to perform, and in this capacity should occupy a place near the clergy. \* \* \* The modern practice quite cuts off the clergyman from the singers, and gives the latter an indecent elevation. In all these observations, I am introducing or recommending nothing new, but merely pleading may be useful to those who wish to place Choirs for a return to a practice prescribed by the spirit and example of the Church of England; and which practice she gives as the clearest pattern in the arrangement of her principal Churches, to this hour. It is evident that such an arrangement obviously requires no additional room, but merely

an exchange of places."
"The Organ," says Mr. Jebb, "was placed on one side of the Choir, generally the north, and towards the east end. Gervais relates that in the brief but pregnant remarks, I deem it right at 12th century such was its position in Canterbury Cathedral, on the north side over the transept arch;" and our author then proceeds to give a list of those places where this arrangement is and still is, the chancel; where, from the instruc-tions of Archbishop Grindal, it appears that the following:—"In Neale's Views of the Churches incumbent had his stall Here the clergy, at least of Great Britain (Vol. 2) there is an extract from those assistant to the officiating priest, ought to a MS. account of Melford Church, in Suffolk, remain, even when the prayers, by the direction written about the time of the Reformation, in of the ordinary, are read in the nave; here the which the following notice occurs: 'There was

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than one of the many paintings there by Peter Neuf, representing the interior of old churches, the Organ was placed in a small gallery on the south side of the church."

In the majority of the churches in France, the Grand Organ is placed over the west door-an arrangement which in too many instances has the bad effect of blocking up in part the western numbering from six to thirty voices), a small in-window. Mr. Jebb says this custom was not strument may be sufficient;—indeed, what is the older than the 17th century, when Holland was Choir Organ for, but principally to accompany seized with the mania of building gigantic and the singers. No judicious organist ever does noisy organs, which he terms "enormous music mills," and he strongly condemns their employment in churches under any circumstances.

History and precedent, then, are not at all agreed as to the original position of Organs in Churches, for this king of instruments seems before the Reformation, as now, to have stood in all sorts of places; -on Choir screens, Rood screens, of the words seems to require. over west doors, over and in transept arches, on the floor of the chancel, over the altar, as in the Royal Chapels of Versailles and the Tuilleries; under the tower, round corners, in hearing, but out of sight, and vice versa ;-in short, it would term-a "well-balanced" organ, "let out," as be impossible to say, I think, not where Organs have stood, but where they have not stood in stops,"-I ask, are there not times when it is Churches.

Speaking again of the position of the Organ, Mr. Jebb remarks:-" Of late the Organ has been restored to its ancient position in the Cathe-

and the Temple Church in London."

I cannot myself ascertain which is the one "ancient position," seeing that all sorts of posi-tions have been adopted. I may observe, too, that the Organ in the Temple Church stands on the north side, and that in the Parish Church of Leeds on the south side. Again, with reference to our Author's observations on "gigantic organs," I think it must have escaped his notice that the introduction of large Organs is by no means of modern date; and if we are to rely on history for one point, we may, I presume, safely do so for another.

Now, I find the following statement in more than one work :- "St. Jerome says, there was an take notice, that they had then a custom in that

as the Mount of Olives."

the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem to the Mount of know that there was then a most excellent large,

a fair Rood Loft with the Rood, Mary and John, been infinitely more powerful than any of the of every side, and with a fair pair of organs "enormous music mills" of the present day. standing thereby.' It appears, too, from Britton's Far be it from me to defend the employment of Arch. Antiqu., Vol. IV., that the Organ in the huge, screamy, noisy organs which are but Arch. Antiqu., Vol. IV., that the Organ in the the huge, screamy, noisy organs which are but Beauchamp Chapel, at Warwick, stood over the too often a disgrace to our churches, and West door; and Aubrey states that the Organ in frequently a means of destroying altogether the Trinity College Chapel, Oxford, stood over the effect of what is of far greater consequence than Choir screen. I particularly noticed in the any instrumental music—the combined and hal-Louvre, at Paris, a few months ago, that in more lowed efforts of a congregation of worshippers to lowed efforts of a congregation of worshippers to praise God with the "human voice divine." I am no advocate for noise, and especially instrumental noise in our churches; all I wish to have understood is the difference between the use and abuse of a large, powerful, and sweet-toned Organ.

For the general execution of the Choral Service (which is usually performed by choirs employ the full power of his instrument (if it be a large one) in the ordinary accompaniments of the choral service, -he rather confines himself to the use of those soft and sweet stops, which will be at once a sufficient support for the singingand a means of giving that variety of expression to the music, which the ever varying sentiment

Notwithstanding, I would ask, are there not times and occasions in the due performance of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, when the effect of a grand, and-to use a technical Master Mace hath it, "into all its fulness of awe-inspiring and powerfully sublime?

For instance, who can have heard a crowded congregation in a large church sing with heart and voice that glorious, time-honored tune-the dral of Canterbury, the Parish Church of Leeds, Old 100th Psalm, accompanied with the full power of a great and beautiful organ, and not acknowledge the powerful aid and thrilling effect which a grand organ gives to some portions, at least, of our church service?

> Again, who can read the account which Master Mace gives of congregational singing in York Minster, in 1644, and not acknowledge the value of a large-an "enormous"-organ, on special occasions, and under peculiar circumstances?

After speaking of the number of people, lords, knights, gentlemen, &c., who attended service in the Minster every Sunday, so that the Church was (as he might say) "cramming and squeezing full," Master Mace adds—"Now here you must Organ at Jerusalem which could be heard as far Church, which was, that always before the sermon the Mount of Olives." the whole congregation sung a psalm together If the distance, therefore, from the Church of with the quire and the organ, and you must also Olives, be about a mile (as I understand it is), plump, lusty, full-speaking organ, which cost (as the Organ to which St. Jerome alludes must have I am credibly informed) a thousand pounds. of in s s s the si

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terable, ravishing soul's delight!) in the which I was so transported and wrapt up into high contemplation that there was no room left in my whole man, viz., body and spirit, for anything below divine and heavenly raptures."

forget to notice the distinction which should be should be infinitely larger and more powerful than an instrument required only to support a few worshippers who sing most lustily in unison the magnificent melodies of grand, though simple, psalms and hymns, thus enabling all, who are able and feel disposed, to take part in one of the most delightful and elevating portions of public worship.

somewhat from the particular subject under completion of the church—which is often the case consideration, and yet I am sure we must all feel from want of funds and other causes-the archia deep interest in whatever relates to the due and tect is astonished and confounded some fine efficient performance of those portions of our church service, to which music forms such a situation which he feels will assuredly ruin the a powerful auxiliary.

The position of an organ will generally depend on that chosen for the choir, and sometimes (but in a smaller degree) the position of a choir must depend on the position of the organ. Occasionally, the position of the choir must depend on that chosen for the minister.

The chief question on which the position of choirs and organs will depend in parish churches is this: - Is the service of our church a Congregational Service, and the prayer Common Prayer? Is the choir to be considered as part of the congregation; are we—as I have before ventured to ask in another paper \*--- to lay it down as a fundamental rule in parochial worship, that choirs are not organized to sing to or for us, but with us, and should not their position in churches be the main object of their services? In churches the vibration is considerable. "Organ builders, where the congregation is not entirely in the

This organ, I say, when the psalm was set, being choir, as in cathedrals, but in the nave, as in most let out into all its fulness of stops, together with parish churches, is the chancel the proper place the choir, began the psalm. But when that vast for a choir? Again, can it be clearly shown, that concording unity of the whole congregational the organ is so insignificant a part of the fittings chorus came thundering in, even so that it made of a church, or of so little consequence in the the very ground shake under us, (Oh! the unut- due and efficient celebration of divine serviceespecially when that service is choral servicethat it should be concealed from view as much as possible, and its tones smothered and its whole action and mechanism perilled by being placed as I understand it is in the beautiful church at When the Rev. J. Jebb and many other writers Howden) under a low arch, near a dead, damp on the choral service condemn the employment wall, and surrounded with pillars? By concealof large organs in our churches, under any cir- ing this noble ecclesiastical instrument as much cumstances, in my humble opinion they appear to as possible, it has been said, that two very important advantages are gained ;-first, an unmade between a congregational and a performed interrupted view of the architectural beauties and service-in short, it seems altogether to be lost proportions of the building in which it is placed; sight of, that an organ to support a great body of and, second, that the tones of the organ affect the singers-an assembled multitude of worshippers congregation more when their source is, as it were, unknown.

The first is, indeed, a most important point, singers who are engaged to perform the choral and should always be kept in view both by archiservice to the congregation. The "enormous" tects and organ builders; but, if the organ, from tects and organ builders; but, if the organ, from organs in Holland were erected principally for the its unquestionable superiority over all other inpurpose of accompanying the large number of struments, is the instrument most suitable to the majesty of divine worship, can it with any pro-priety or reason be placed in such a situation as chorales, the music of which is printed—as it neither to be fairly seen or heard? And yet it is should be in England-with the words of the a fact that the majority of church architects waive this important consideration in preparing their plans for any new structure; so that if the erection of an organ be not specially named, and I must crave pardon for having digressed is not brought forward till some time after the morning at being told that an organ is to stand in proportions of his building.

> Surely, the architect of the beautiful little church you have, I believe, gentlemen, been visiting this morning (St. John's, Holbeck), cannot really believe, if he has considered the matter at all, that the hole in the wall over the north porch is a suitable place for an organ? And yet I am told, on credible authority, that it is intended to place an organ there, and such a one as will be worthy of the church, and of the liberality of its pious founders—the choir, it must be remembered, being at the other end of the church.

No person, who is at all acquainted either with music or the principles of acoustics, can imagine that an organ placed under a low arch, with three sides of it close to dead walls—in fact, in a stone box-will produce the same effect as an organ such as would best conduce to bring about this, placed in an open situation in the church where says an intelligent writer on this subject, "well know the difference between voicing an organ for a recess in a small chapel, and one for a central

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<sup>\*</sup> Lecture on Church Music.

situation in a spacious church. In one case where that the usual places appropriated to the dignithe obstacles are numerous and close to the organ, taries in our cathedrals appear to be the worst in it is almost impossible to produce a proper quality the church, and it is very curious that the chief of tone, especially from large pipes. Whereas, places should be west of the choir. in the other case, the organ builder soon finds the required tone, owing to all obstacles being at Rule I. an ora distance, and the vibration of each pipe not being disturbed but in its 'periphery,' thus causing an agreeable reflection of sound, such as we find on listening to the organs in our cathedrals and other large buildings." It is a singular fact connected with the amount of resonance in different buildings, that the enormous organ built by Mr. Willis, which stood at the west end of the Wells-street. It Crystal Palace, and which contained three sets of has a one-sided manuals, an immense number of stops, and a large pedal organ, was not in effect so powerful as an instrument in a Church at Islington, with one row of keys and eight stops. This anomalous effect one choirabove must be attributed solely to the total absence of the other, and reverberation from the immense quantity of glass the choir nearest the organ hears considerably in the Great Exhibition.

From what I have stated at the commencement of my paper, it will be seen, I think, that no one position for organs has exclusively been adopted in any age of the church,-though it must be admitted that from about the 15th century they have been generally placed, in parish churches, in the western gallery,-and in cathedrals and collegiate churches on the screen which separates

the choir from the nave.

The present generation being at liberty, then, to legislate on the subject, I have ventured, as a church organist, to draw up a few rules which, I hope, may be of some service to those who wish to place organs and choirs in churches in such a position as will best suit the requirements of the choral service-and, at the same time, not disfigure the architectural beauties of the building.

Rule I.—An organ should not play over one

choir to another choir.\*

Rule II.—The people should not be between the choir and organ.

Rule III.—The singers in a choir must not have their backs to the people.

Rule IV .- A choir should never be in a gallery. In churches where there is a double choir and an organ, it seems to me that the organ may often be advantageously placed in the centre of a low organ screen, in the old and common position. As a general rule, choirs should as nearly as possible form an equilateral triangle with the organ It is an important question, and one deserving of close investigation, whether listeners, or those who depend on choirs for assistance, should be east of the choirs; and it is certainly not advisable for the congregation to come between the tuous indignation expended on the subject may at last choir and organ. I cannot help remarking here, be discovered to take its rise in a kind of "fox-and-

I stated in play over one choir to another choir, as at the Temple Church, and at St. Andrew's. effect; and, as the generally hears

GRUAN

ST. ANDREW'S.

more of organ than the other choir opposite, it frequently the cause of serious faults and blemishes in the performance of the music. For this reason the organ should always, if possible, be placed considerably above the heads of the singers, -the tones of an instrument proceeding immediately fore a choir will, assuredly,

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rather confuse than assist them. circumstances require the organ to be placed on the floor of a church, the sound-board should be fixed as high as the architecture, or other points, will allow.

To be concluded in our next.

#### CHURCH ORGANISTS .- No. II.

THE mode in which the funds of the established church are distributed has long occupied the attention of church reformers of our own time; with their object we have nothing to do: it may happen that the virgrapes" desire, not merely to alter the system but to reverse it; so that they who are loudest in complaint may have the felicity of turning the tables upon the

† As at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

<sup>\*</sup> i. e., when the organ is placed on the ground.

VADASI VIA DI QUA.

[London: J. ALPRED NOVELLO, 69, Dean Street, Soho, & 24, Poultry; also in New York, at 389, Broadway.]



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#### THE TICKLING TRIO.



This Trio is published by J. Alfred Novello, folio size, price 9d.

Continued from page 262.

now fortunate possessors of the funds. Be this as it may, the writer, as a stanch churchman from conviction, laments the schism that exists in the establishment no less than the mal-appropriation of its funds: he cannot shut his eyes to the fact that in no community is there so great an inequality of remuneration as in that in which the strictest justice should prevail. This is not to be denied by even the most inordinate lover of "loaves and fishes;" let us turn to our own parishes, without reference to the heads of dioceses: let us compare the income of the rector with the salary of the hard-working curate: let us look at the thousands, in many cases, that are paid for the privilege of hearing sometimes no more than a dozen or so of sermons in the year by the rector, and then turn for a moment to the labour performed by a curate for from £80 to £100 for the same time: let us look also to the exacting manner in which all fees are demanded-the tithes are collected, and the easter offering is applied for, and we shall not want examples to qualify the statement we have made. It is not the friend, but the enemy, to the church, who will not see all this; and as deriving no income from any such source, we may perhaps be allowed the privilege of claiming belief in our sincerity in wishing a better order of things to exist in the administration of the affairs of a church in which we feel it a privilege to belong.

We have recurred to this topic for the purpose of enforcing some attention to the subject of this papernamely, the better remuneration of those members of bosom of the establishment, and whose ability is devoted to the proper performance of her musical service. Let an indifferent organist be heard in one of our metropolitan churches; his inefficiency is at once discovered, and if he be a deputy the organist receives strict injunctions to prevent his future attendance. That part of the service, perhaps, under the regular organist, goes on smoothly and regularly: then the attends every morning in the week, for about £80 a year; the organist is present at two or three services, and seldom gets half the amount; the rector preaches his sermon sometimes once a week for half the year, comfortable assurance that he has earned from £800 to £1000! We have referred more particularly to this branch of the subject, because it happens that the rate at which the salary of the organist is fixed rests princase, a recommendation from such a source is sure to meet with attention; and surely the rectors in general cannot believe that, while it requires some thousands to support their position, an organist is able to get on upon twenty pounds a year.

We are not advocates of the "liberty and equality" system, but in a sacred cause like that of the performance of the church service, it is absolutely necessary that every one connected with it should have the means to live-there is no denying the truth of this assertion, it is much too plain to be disputed : how can the argument often put forth in the pulpit hold prevents us entering fully into the merits of the Glougood, that the labourer is worthy of his hire, if that cester Festival. We have been favored by a friend hire be unworthy of him?

ness of the document it contains, we have thought it the proceedings-merely stating that the improved

worth while to place before our readers, some of whom will doubtless be disposed to treat it as a joke. Our correspondent thus writes :-

"The attention of the Editor of the Musical Times is directed to the advertisement, a copy of which is given below. The writer fully agrees with the sentiments expressed in the Article which appeared in the Musical Times, headed 'Church Organists;' but in his opinion the advertisement there alluded to bears no comparison with the present one. What an exalted idea the advertiser must have of music and musicians!"

ORGAN. Wanted, a respectable man, to act as TURNKEY in a County Prison. One who understands Music, can play the Organ, and sing Bass, would be preferred. For further particulars, apply, &c.

We have purposely abstained from giving the address affixed to the advertisement, not wishing to give the publicity to it which an issue of many thousands would necessarily impart; but an address is affixed to it.

What idea can the advertiser have upon the matter? does he suppose that a man who has the necessary qualifications to fill the office of turnkey should also be accomplished in the science of music, or does he rather reason in this wise-no man can be an organist who has not a power over the keys? hence an organist would make a good turnkey. The "baser" qualification mentioned in the advertisement, in a county gaol, would be perfectly intelligible; and in addition to his singing bass, the holder of such an office would often have to "sing small" as well, upon the salary.

We have often wondered that a respectable body, the musical profession whose lots have been cast in the like that of church organists, has not taken some means to put itself in a better position with churchmen -that they have not formed an association by which they could withstand injustice or oppression, and defend themselves against the annoyance and attacks to which, under the best state of things, they are, in the performance of their difficult and nervous duties, subected. But really musical men have so little of the business habits of almost any other profession, no hope curate reads the prayers two or three times a day, and can be entertained that such a suggestion could ever be carried out: yet they have not a bad example generally in the careful manner with which the secular interests of the church in general are regarded. We almost think that the matter rests with organists and retires to his residence in the country with the themselves-an opinion we have often repeated in the presence of some of the best and most respected of our metropolitan church organists. For the present, however, having again given the benefit of our large circulation to the publication of our opinion, we leave cipally with the rector: even where this is not the the matter in the hands of those whom we believe, if they will apply the moral of the fable, "The wain in the mire," to their own case, would be able, in a short time, to congratulate themselves on having accomplished a salutary change both in the performance of our musical church service and in the character of its remuneration.

VERNON.

#### GLOUCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

Our necessarily limited space for such purposes, with a well-written detailed criticism, but as we could Our attention has again been called to this fact not insert it entire, and not feeling justified in mutiearlier perhaps than it might have been, by a letter lating it, we have preferred to offer a compilation from received from a correspondent, which, from the curious- various sources-intending the report as a resume of

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position assumed by the three choirs, Cirencester, Hereford, and Gloucester, affords occasion for congratulation to the promoters of the Festival. Our correspondent who has thus favoured us, will therefore kindly accept this explanation as reason sufficient for the non-appearance of his criticism.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.
- J. C.—Apply to a music-seller; but we cannot hold out any hope for our Correspondent. MS. compositions are a drug in the market; some of the efforts of the best native composers are in the same position as those of our Correspondent—waiting for a publisher. The specimen sent to us, "The Dublin Exhibition Metropolitan Polka," we fear will not quite make the fortune of our Correspondent.

Counterpoint should apply to some respectable professor, and state his circumstances to him.

Musicus.—Our Correspondent who proposes "the total abolition of choirs and anthem singing" (!) might as well, for the reason he assigns, make a similar proposition for the "total abolition" of priests; we consider that the performance of any part of the church service is not the less effective and useful for being well done—the slovenliness of the conventicle in this respect has often been productive of ridicule. Our Correspondent must excuse us for stating that we have no sympathy with the tone or purport of his letter, which is certainly more suited to a theological than to a musical publication.

Diapason.—We have no recollection of the question put to us will he repeat it? Our Correspondent is perhaps not aware that Newspapers posted seven days after date are not allowed to pass to Foreign parts, unless paid for at

Amateur, Jun.—We know of no work which would give our Correspondent "an insight into the science of organ building or pianoforte making." We recommend a visit to the establishment of Messrs. Broadwoods.

Amateur, who wishes to know how he can gain an introduction to the Orchestra of the Sacred Harmonic Society, is referred to the Office of the Society, No. 6, in Exeter Hall, on Friday Evenings during the Rehearsals, from Eight till Ten o'Clock.

#### Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

The Bradford Festival.—The fine building called St. George's Hall, recently erected in Bradford, was publicly opened on the 31st of August, which event was celebrated by the first of a series of grand musical performances which terminated on the 2nd Sept. The ceremony of opening the hall and the festival attracted numerous visitors from all parts of the adjacent country, and the sudden influx of persons into the town was attended with considerable inconvenience, as there was no adequate accommodation for those who wished to remain in the town. At half-past ten the doors of the Hall were thrown open, and almost immediately every seat was occupied. The performances commenced with the National Anthem, in which Madame Clara Novello and the principal singers took a prominent part. It was followed by Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral by the three choirs, herdon and the prioripal and the chrowses were materially strengthened, and, together with

Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Winn. The chorus and band were very effective, and were rewarded for their exertions by the plaudits of the audience, who were evidently much delighted with the performance. In the evening there was a grand concert of miscellaneous music.

GLOUCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL. - Success has this year been the result of the celebrated festival at Gloucester. Previously to the first day the unceasing rain which fell caused much apprehension in the minds of the visitors and inhabitants, but a sudden and unexpected change restored universal gaiety, and allowed the innumerable patrons of the festival auspiciously to commence the routine on the morning of the 13th was attended by a larger number of persons than has hitherto ever been present at the inauguration of the festival; the conductor of the orchestra was Mr. Amott, organist of the cathedral, whilst the band was composed of the best instrumentalists of our metropolitan orchestras; Messrs. Blagrove, Willy, Hill, Lucas, and Howell, were amongst the principal instru-mental performers. The organist, Mr. Townshend Smith, fulfilled his functions with admirable efficiency. The sermon preached by the Rev. B. S. Claxon, D. D., (1 Chron. xiii. 8.) was peculiarly adapted to the occasion. Handel's overture to Esther; the "Preces and Responses of Tallis; the Te Deum Laudamus, distinguished as the Dettingen Te Deum, because composed by Handel to celebrate that famous victory; a Festival Anthem by Dr. Elvey, full of musicianly writing and feeling; and the late Mr. Attwood's "Coronation Anthem," were the principal features of the musical selection. The vocal morceaux were intrusted to Mrs. Lockey, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. Weiss, who separately and conjointly displayed to the best advantage their rare accomplishments and endowments. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Amott, proved itself worthy of every praise, while the chorus exhibited great precision and power. In the evening the first of the miscellaneous concerts took place in the Shire Hall, a handsome building, but somewhat ill contrived for musical purposes. The programme contained almost every class of composition. The singers were Madame Clara Novello, Madame Castellan, Miss Dolby, Signor Gardoni, Signor Tagliafico, Herr Formes, Mr. and Mrs. Lockey, and Mrs. Weiss. To those who are conversant with the programmes and performances at the best London concerts, a detailed criticism would doubtless prove uninteresting, since the material and its application are the same. The most striking feature of the concert was certainly the performance of Mendelssohn's finale to Lorely. Both were better interpreted than on any previous occasion, whilst the impassioned and dramatic singing of Madame Clara Novello gave perfect effect to the delicious and wild strains expressed by the inspired Leonora. As early as eight in the morning of the 14th, full service was performed in the Cathedral by the three choirs, before a very numerous congregation. The subsequent performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah, collected about 2,000 persons in the Cathedral; the choruses were materially strengthened, and, together with the orchestra, exerted themselves most successfully. Madame Clara Novello, Madame Castellan, Mrs. Lockey, and Miss Dolby, gave admirable expression to the soprano and contralto parts, while those of the bass and tenor could not possibly have been in better hands than those of Herr Formes, Mr. Lockey, and Signor Gardoni. The second concert was less successful than the first, and the attendance was comparatively insignificant. The principal instrumental morceaux was Mendelssohn's symphony in A minor, the innumerable characteristic beauties of which were delicately and artistically ex-

ance of his own compositions. On the 15th the Cathedral was again crowded to excess, the varied attraction of the programme having doubtless exercised no mean influence programme having doubtless exercised no mean innecessive upon the public mind. The first and second part of Haydn's Creation, Mendelssohn's fragment of Christus, and Handel's Israel in Egypt, occupied the executants and the auditory till the hour of four; neither the former nor auditory till the hour of four; or fatigue. The the latter, however, exhibited any signs of fatigue. The choruses in the Creation were all carefully executed; and the soli were admirably interpreted by Madame Novello, Madame Castellan, Signor Gardoni, and Mr. Weiss. The performance of Mendelssohn's Christus was highly creditable; its power and beauty were exhibited most advantageously; the recitatives, by Mr. Lockey and Madame Novello, and the splendid trio of the three wise men, were worthy of the most unfeigned commendation: the choruses also were given with effect. In an incomplete form the Israel in Egypt was very effectively given; its style-so different from the Creation, which preceded it, and from the Christus, which followed—cannot fail to impress the hearer by its solemn grandeur. Mrs. Lockey, Mrs. Weiss, Herr Formes, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Lockey, and Madame Novello, exerted themselves with complete success. The third miscellaneous concert, which took place in the evening, was almost as long as its two predecessors, and was attended by an audience almost as numerous as those of the previous entertainments combined. The selections performed embraced every possible school of music-ancient, modern, French, German, Italian, and English. The abundant entertainment provided seemed to afford universal satis-The performance of the Messiah is generally the feature of every festival. The concourse assembled in the Cathedral on the 16th, on the occasion of its performance, was numerically without precedent. The execution of the master-piece was so admirable as to require little comment; the solos were perfectly sung by Madame Novello, Madame Castellan, Miss Dolby, Mrs. Lockey, Mrs. Weiss, Signor Gardoni, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. Weiss, while the grand impressive choruses were rendered with such power and feeling as, in connection with the locality and large assemblage, could not but fail to create an extraordinary effect. The ball in the evening wound up the proceedings of the Festival week. The receipts for the charity amounted altogether to £805 15s. 9d., besides an anticipated surplus from the sale of tickets, after payment of all the expenses of the Festival. The following shows the amount collected at these Festivals annually for the last 20 years:—In 1834, at Hereford, £676 11s.; in 1835, at Gloucester, £660 11s. 10d.; in 1836, at Worcester, £828 6s.; in 1837, at Hereford, £818 1s. 2d.; in 1838, at Gloucester, £704 16s. 5d.; in 1839, at Worcester, £950 3s. 6d.; In 1840, at Hereford, £1,061 2s. 1d.; in 1841, at Gloucester, £642 18s. 6d.; in 1842, at Worcester, £1,061 1s.; in 1843, at Hereford, £901 13s.; In 1844, at Gloucester, £648 17s.; in 1845, at Worcester, £850; in 1846, at Hereford, £812 18s. 2d.; in 1847, at Gloucester, £686 2s. 11d.; in 1848, at Worcester, £969; in 1849, at Hereford, £833 14s.; in 1850, at Gloucester, £864 6s.; in 1851, at Worcester, £884; in 1852, at Hereford, £867; in 1853, at Gloucester, £805 15s. 9d.

OBITUARY .- In the burial ground of St. Pancras, in the early part of the month, the earth closed over the remains of poor Blewitt, the composer, who for more than half a century has provided the lovers of light music with inspiring compositions; many of those brought forth during his latter years being, we fear, the produce of any thing but a light heart, for adversity had in the decline of his life surrounded him with the horrors of poverty, aggravated by a painful internal disease, from which he suffered exeruciating agony for many years. He continued, notwithstanding, till within a few weeks of his Messrs, Edmondson and Hull, with an efficient band and death to the surface of the surface

publishers, and after having for twenty-five years provided the Christmas pantomime music for the principal London theatres-a branch of the art in which he peculiarly excelled-he showed in the last Drury Lane pantomime of Harlequin Hudibras that his gaiety was exuberant, and his invention as fertile as ever. To Blewitt we are indebted for the airs of many of our popular comic songs and Hibernian ditties, amongst which latter the never-to-beforgotten Barney Brallaghan may be mentioned as having brought a fortune to the singer, without realising a sixpence for the composer. At the glee clubs his compo-sitions generally carried off the prize, and as the musical director of Vauxball Gardens, and more recently as a pianist, accompanying Mr. Templeton in his vocal entertainments, his talent was always recognized. As a pupil of the great Haydn—the first tutor of most of our present eminent English vocalists, and the composer of upwards of two thousand original pieces of music, John Blewitt deserved at least a competency for his old age, but, unfortunately, he has left—too often the only legacy of genius a widow and two daughters without the slightest means of support. The deceased was in his 73rd year.

MUSICAL INSTITUTE OF LONDON .- After two seasons of existence, this association has been dissolved at a general meeting of its members.

MR. CIPRIANI POTTER.—A son of this respected pro-fessor was recently drowned, while bathing over the ship's side, when on his voyage to China.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY, SHAFTESBURY HALL .- This Society's Concert took place (Sept. 13th) before a numerous assembly of the inhabitants of Aldersgate. The first part consisted entirely of Mozart's 12th Service, which was executed in a most praiseworthy manner. Mr. Essex, the conductor, deserves praise for his choice of music.

SOUTHWARK SINGING ASSOCIATION .- The members of the 18th Elementary and Upper Classes of this Association held the usual half-yearly meeting and musical entertainment (Sept. 19th) at Sussex Hall. The chorus numbered upwards of 180 voices. Mr. Rees E. Harris, Organist to the Association, presided at the pianoforte. In the course of the evening, a testimonial, consisting of two very elegant and appropriate prints, handsomely framed, was presented by one of the members of the class to Mr. J. E. Minot, the teacher. The hall was crowded by a respectable audience.

MANCHESTER .- A correspondent thus addresses us :-"I have great pleasure in informing you that a Society has been formed in this city for the practice and cultivation of music, under the denomination of 'The All Saints' Choral Society.' It has been commenced by a number of young men who really take an interest in its welfare. We have a conductor who is a thorough good musician, and who has kindly offered his services-and, upon the whole, I think we have every prospect of success. We have found it necessary to make certain restrictions with regard to the admission of members, and I earnestly hope that we may spend some very social evenings; and I am sure, Mr. Editor, we have your best wishes. It may be well to state that the music chosen is from Novello's Musical

THE LONG CRENDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY gave a Concert on the 9th of August, consisting of solos and choruses from the oratorios of Handel, Haydn, &c.

STOCKPORT.-The Stockport Choral Society gave a grand Concert of Sacred Music on Tuesday evening, the 13th Sept., in the Large Room of the Stockport Sunday death, to throw off the merriest of melodies for the music chorus numbering some 150 performers, chiefly amateurs

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and resident in Stockport. Leader, Mr. Robert Williamson. Mr. George Cooper, deputy organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, St. James's Chapel Royal, &c., &c., presided at the organ. The music was selected from the works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Pergolesi, Mendelssohn, Horsley, &c.

BIRMINGHAM .- On the 7th Sept. the Birmingham Festival Choral Society gave their last Concert of the present subscription in the Town Hall. The principal vocalists were Madame Castellan, Mrs. Paget (late Miss Clarke, of the Royal Academy of Music), Mdlle. Bellini. Signor Gardoni, Mr. Paget, and Signor Tagliafico, who gave an excellent selection of sacred and secular music to the Price 18. delight of a large and fashionable attendance. One of the most interesting features of this Concert was the successful debut of a new contralto, Mrs. Paget, who was very warmly received .- From a Correspondent.

MACCLESFIELD SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY .- This Society, which has been in existence but a short time, and consists principally of amateurs of the town and neighbourhood, gave their first Concert (September 5th) in the Large Room of the Macclesfield Sunday School. merous audience attended. The programme contained a well-chosen selection from the best composers, and the pieces were given with a correctness and effect highly creditable to an orchestra of amateurs. It is the intention of the Society shortly to give other Concerts. Mr. Skerratt was the conductor; Mr. Williamson the leader.

BRIGHTON .- An opportunity of hearing Mademoiselle Clauss for the second time was recently afforded to us by the indefatigable Mr. Wright, whom we suspect of aspiring to the title of "Purveyor-General of Music to Brighton." Mademoiselle Clauss afforded us great pleasure by the light and delicate style in which she rendered Beethoven's sonata, op. 53, La Chasse, by Heller, and the "Harmonious Blacksmith," though we detected a slip of A duet for two pianos was finely played by memory in it. this lady and Herr Kuhe; and a very difficult movement of Scarlatti. Mademoiselle Clauss performed with immense brio.-Brighton Guardian.

HULL.-Mr. Forster (of the firm of Forster and Andrews) has recently read a paper before the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, We have received on Improvements in Organ Building. an abstract of the lecture, which gives a good idea of the usefulness of the paper.

JERSEY .- The Choral Society gave its first two concerts in the last month. The first part of each concert consisted of Romberg's Lay of the Bell. The choruses were well executed by the members of the society. The Jersey Choral Society appears to have commenced its career under favourable circumstances.

BRUSSELS .- The Conservatoire of Brussels at the beginning of the year offered as prize a gold medal, to the value of 1,500 francs, to the composer of the best Sym-Thirty-one works, were submitted for approval; phonies. Thirty-one works, were submitted for approval; the medal has been awarded to an amateur, Herr Ulrich,

Musical Prizes. - We perceive by our advertising columns that two prizes are offered by the Cheadle Association for Promoting Church Music; the first, the best metrical tune adapted to the words of "Hark, the herald angels sing,"—the other to the Easter Hymn, words, "Jesus Christ is risen to-day." The names of the successful candidates will be announced in the Musical Times

succeeded to the situation of organist and musical teacher to the above asylum.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

### DURING THE LAST MONTH, Published by J. A. NOVELLO.

YOSTA, M. Orchestral Parts to his Baptismal Anthem. "Suffer little children to come unto me." parts, 2s.; Wind parts, 5s. 4d.

OVELLO. Sanctus and Kyrie eleesons. Sanctus and three Kyrie eleesons by Mrs. Mounsey Bartholomew. Price 1s. No. 14, Sanctus in E flat, three Kyrie eleesons, and three Chants, by Mrs. Mounsey Bartholomew.

MITH, Dr. John, of Dublin. Separate Vocal Parts to his Services. For prices of Vocal Score and Parts see Advertisement, page 258.

TING'S Service in C. Te Deum, Jubilate, Sanctus, Kyrie, Creed, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Vocal Score, 3s. 6d.; Separate Vocal Parts in the Press.

AYDN. Third or Imperial Mass in D minor. Separate Vocal parts, with English words, adapted from the Psalms, by R. G. Loraine. Soprano, 1s. 3d.; Alto, 1s.; Tenor, 1s.; Bass, 1s. Each movement may be had singly at three-halfpence per page 258.

ANOVER, His Majesty the King of. A Lyric Version of the Eighty-fourth Psalm, as performed at the Christening of His Royal Highness Prince Leopold. Words by W. Bartholomew, for two Tenors and two Basses. 1s. 6d.

BEETHOVEN'S "Engedi," (or David in the Wilderness). Vocal Score, 8vo., 3s., in paper cover.

ODFREY, Rev. N. S. "Nearer my God to Thee," being No. 1, of Songs for the Christians Drawing Rooms.

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